

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPR, CG

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE SHABA II

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND USE IS PRESS GUIDANCE
PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING:

Q. WOULD YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN
ZAIRE?

A. LET ME SAY, FIRST, THAT WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED AT
THIS RENEWAL OF CONFLICT IN THE SHABA AREA. IT IS CLEARLY
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CONTRARY TO ALL PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY SO
SHARPLY ENDORSED BY THE AFRICAN STATES.

AS YOU KNOW, OUR FIRST CONCERN IS FOR THE WELFARE OF AMERI-
CAN CITIZENS IN THE GENERAL AREA WHERE THE FIGHTING HAS
BEEN TAKING PLACE. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE
A TOTAL OF 73 AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE KOLWEZI AREA--62 ARE

EMPLOYEES OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN; 9 ARE MISSIONARIES; 1 WORKS FOR THE COOPER CONSORTIUM GECAMINES; AND 1 IS A TOURIST.

Q. HAVE ANY OF THEM BEEN ROUNDED UP BY THE INVADERS AS SOME PRESS REPORTS HAVE SAID?

A. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO. THERE ARE 59 EMPLOYEES OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN AT A BASE CAMP 8 MILES NORTHWEST OF KOLWEZI. 14 OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE KNOWN TO BE IN THE KOLWEZI AREA. ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION ALL ARE UNHARMED -- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SLIGHT INJURY TO A DEPENDENT CHILD WHICH I MENTIONED YESTERDAY.

Q. ANY REPORT THAT THE INVADERS MIGHT HOLD EUROPEANS AS HOSTAGES?

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THAT. I WANT TO STRESS HOWEVER, AS I HAVE SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SPEAK WITH CERTAINTY ABOUT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT EVACUATION PLANS?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING REGARDING AMERICAN CITIZENS. YOU CAN ASSUME THAT SUCH PLANNING IS ROUTINE IN A CASE LIKE THIS.
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Q. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR COORDINATION WITH THE FRENCH AND/OR BELGIANS?

A. SAME ANSWER.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE MILITARY OPERATION? CAN YOU FILL US IN ON THAT?

A. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A REMOTE AREA. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE DETAILS OF THE MILITARY SITUATION ON THE GROUND. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAS INFORMED US THAT IT MOVED AGAINST KOLWEZI THIS MORNING USING PARATROOPS, AND THE ZAIRE NEWS AGENCY HAS MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE DETAILS OR OFFER CONFIRMATION, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT A PARATROOP OPERATION DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE.

Q. HAS PRESIDENT MOBUTU ASKED US FOR ASSISTANCE?

A. WE HAVE NO NEW SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE--ONLY THE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED

GENERAL APPEAL RECEIVED YESTERDAY. SHOULD WE RECEIVE A SPECIFIC REQUEST WE WOULD, OF COURSE, GIVE IT OUT URGENT CONSIDERATION. ZAIRE HAS ASKED US TO ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN THE PIPE-LINE, AND WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO COMPLY WITH THIS BY SPEEDING UP DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, C-130

SPARE PARTS, AND SPARE PARTS FOR A CESSNA 310. THIS EQUIPMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN ORDERED UNDER THE FY-77 FMS PROGRAM I MENTIONED YESTERDAY. (THE FY-77 LEVEL OF MILITARY SALES CREDITS IS \$17.5 MILLION.)

Q. COULD THE KATANGANS BE BASED IN ANGOLA WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS?
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A. I WOULD THINK NOT.

Q. ANY EVIDENCE THAT CUBANS ARE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING?

A. WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT CUBANS ARE FIGHTING OR ADVISING THE INVADERS INSIDE ZAIRE. BUT WE HAVE SEEN THE SAME REPORTS YOU HAVE--AND WE ARE QUITE CONCERNED. IT IS A MATTER WE WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY.

Q. ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON TONIGHT. DO YOU PLAN TO DISCUSS THE EVENTS IN SHABA WITH HIM?

A. THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS ONE WHICH ALL AFRICAN LEADERS UPHOLD. WE WOULD WELCOME PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA. I SHOULD THINK THAT THE SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED.

Q. DID THE INVADERS COME THROUGH ZAMBIAN TERRITORY? IF SO, DID THEY DO SO WITH ZAMBIAN KNOWLEDGE?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE YOU INFORMATION ON MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE FRENCH AND THE BELGIANS? THEY HAVE MORE CITIZENS IN THE KOLWEZI AREA THAN WE DO.

A. THAT'S RIGHT, AND I SHOULD THINK THAT THEY ARE AS CONCERNED FOR THE WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS IN THE AREA AS WE ARE FOR OURS.

Q. THE RUSSIANS HAVE DENIED SUGGESTIONS THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTING THE INVADERS. DO WE BELIEVE THEM?
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A. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AT
THIS TIME. OBVIOUSLY THIS IS AN ASPECT WE ARE WATCHING
CLOSELY. VANCE

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